

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 are pending in the application with the independent claims amended. This preliminary amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1-4 had been rejected as unpatentable over Gersho in view of Honda. However, the amended claims 1-3 have the waveform coder with a zero-phase equalization filter plus a pitch-prediction filter for the weakly-voiced frames but not for the parametric coder for strongly-voiced frames. In contrast, Gersho Figs.4A-4D has strongly-voiced, unvoiced, and transition frames with both the strongly-voiced and transition frames encoded after phase synchronization. Thus the amended claims' filterings are not suggested by the references.

Respectfully submitted,

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